

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, FIGs. 9 and 10 are amended to correct step S8, which now reads “CONTROL A HEAD KEEPING ON-TRACK ALONG A VIRTUAL TRACK”. Support for this correction to the drawings can be found on page 31, lines 19-21 of Applicants’ specification.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). More specifically, the Examiner objects to the claim language “determines whether or not the position conversion information is stored”, in claim 1, lns. 21-22 and “whether or not the position conversion information is stored”, in claim 8, lns. 11-12. In response, Applicants amended claims 1 and 8 to delete this claim language and request withdrawal of the objection on this basis.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 8 directed to determining “whether or not the position conversion information is stored” are not adequately described in the specification. In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 8 to delete this claim language, and traverse the rejection as it applies to amended claims.

The present invention is directed to storing position conversion information on a record medium, and not to determining whether or not position conversion information is stored. The storing of position conversion information on a record medium makes it possible to avoid inaccessibility of the record medium even when failure of the hardware, prepared to store the position conversion information, occurs. Thus, the risk of failure of the prepared

hardware is reduced. Amended claims 1 and 8 now clarify that conversion information is stored on the recording medium.

The Examiner further asserts on page 4 of the Office Action that if Applicants delete the above-noted language of claims 1 and 8, then it appears that U.S. Patent No. 6,128,153 ('153 patent) teaches the features of claims 1 and 8. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 8 in their current form are different from the '153 patent. The '153 patent has position conversion information stored only in the hardware called "eccentricity data memory" which is separately prepared.

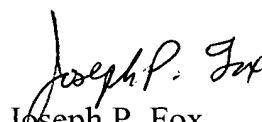
In contrast, position conversion information is stored in the discord record medium in the present invention. As discussed in Applicants' specification, "in the case where the above-described conversion table is stored only in the non-volatile memory such as a PROM, a failure the non-volatile memory having occurred after shipment cannot be coped with and, in this case, the control along the virtual track also cannot be executed." (See Applicants' specification page 5, line 26 to page 6, line 4). Thus, the present invention is advantageous as compared to the '153 patent. For all of these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejection, and allowance of claims 1-10.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 9-10. Annotated sheets showing the changes are attached along with the replacement sheets.

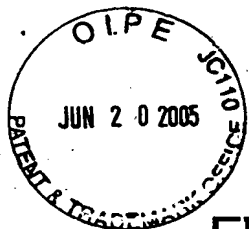


FIG. 9

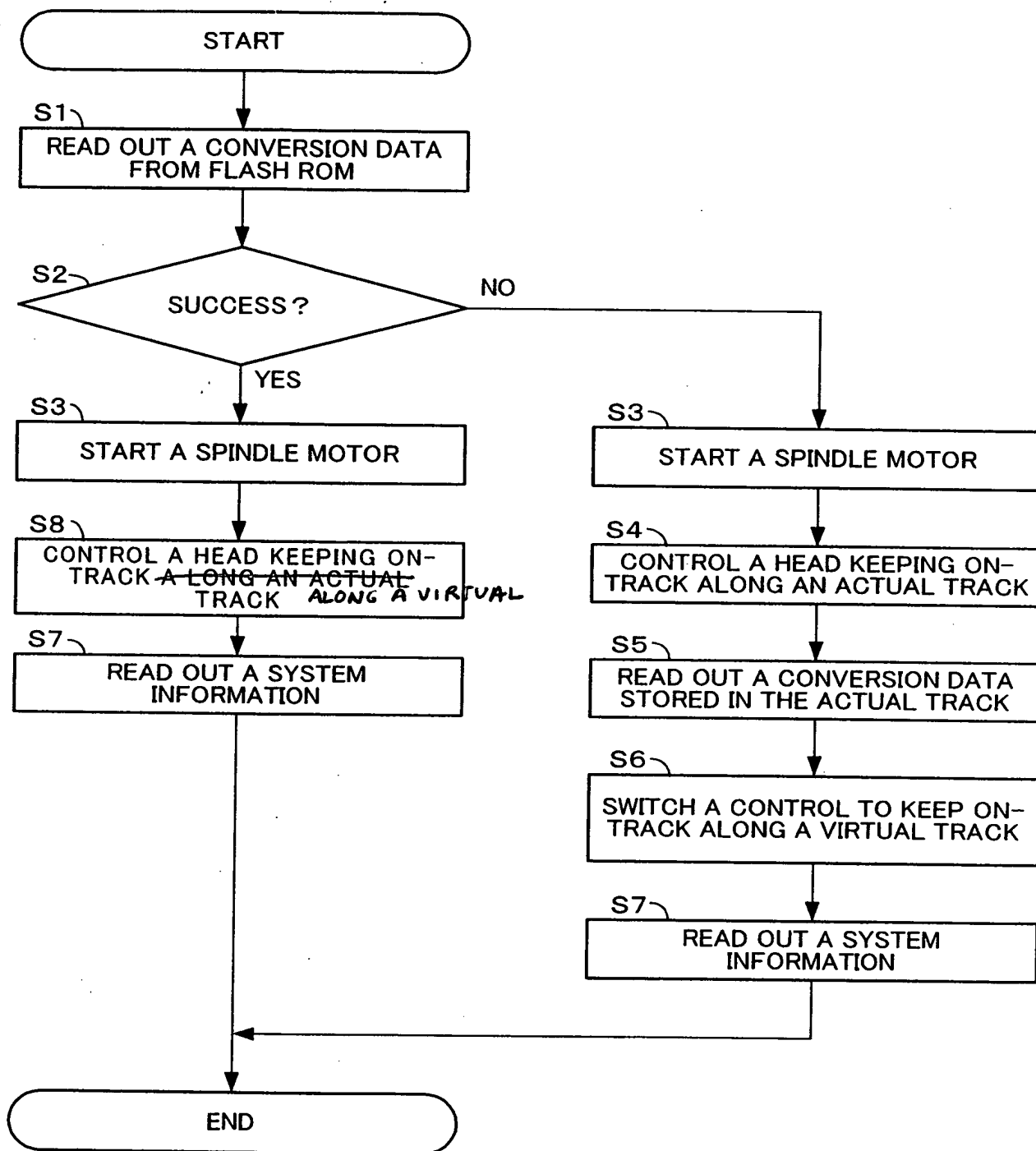


FIG. 10

